

The GNA Partners with U.S. to Defeat ISIS In Libya

Former Charge d'Affaires and interim Stephanie Williams and AFRICOM Commander General Thomas Waldhauser

May 31, 2018

<https://ly.usembassy.gov/press-statement-charge-daffaires-ad-interim-stephanie-williams-may-31-2018/>

"Today, my colleague AFRICOM Commander General Tom Waldhauser and I met with Prime Minister al-Sarraj and we reiterated our shared vision for a stable, democratic and unified Libya able to deliver prosperity for the Libyan people. As our presence in Tripoli today testifies, the U.S.-Libya partnership is strong, rooted in our mutual commitment to advance political reconciliation in partnership with the United Nations, promote economic reform and closer economic ties between the United States and Libya, and defeat ISIS and other terrorists who imperil and threaten the safety and security of the Libyan people.

AFRICOM

U.S. Conducts Precision Airstrike in Libya

In coordination with the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA), U.S. Africa Command conducted a precision airstrike near Al Uwaynat, Libya, November 29, 2018.

<https://www.africom.mil/media-room/pressrelease/31409/u-s-conducts-precision-airstrike-in-libya>

In coordination with the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA), U.S. Africa Command conducted a precision airstrike near Al Uwaynat, Libya, November 29, 2018, killing eleven (11) al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) terrorists and destroying three (3) vehicles. At this time, we assess no civilians were injured or killed in this strike. "AFRICOM will use precision strikes to deny terrorists safe haven in Libya. We will keep pressure on their network, and they remain vulnerable wherever they are," said U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Gregg P. Olson, director of operations, U.S. Africa Command. This is the third U.S. strike against AQIM in Libya. The last strike against AQIM occurred on June 13, 2018, resulting in the death of one (1) terrorist. The United States will not relent in its mission to degrade, disrupt, and destroy terrorist organizations and bring stability to the region. We are committed to maintaining pressure on the terror network and preventing terrorists from establishing safe haven.

Disseminated by Mercury Public Affairs, LLC, a registered foreign agent, on behalf of the Government of National Accord Libya, Office of the Prime Minister. More information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

**STATEMENT OF GENERAL THOMAS D. WALDHAUSER, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
COMMANDER UNITED STATES AFRICA COMMAND BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES**

February 7 2019

<file:///C:/Users/dstach/Downloads/2019%20USAFRICOM%20Posture%20Statement.pdf>

In 2016, the Libyan Government of National Accord requested assistance from the U.S. and our European allies to rid the country of ISIS-Libya. Together, we assisted Libyan forces aligned to the Government of National Accord and conducted hundreds of kinetic strikes in support of its ground operations in Sirte. Within months, Sirte was liberated. Since then, the U.S. has remained engaged in the international efforts to stabilize Libya Page 25

In 2018, U.S. Africa Command conducted kinetic strikes targeting the leadership and operational commanders of both ISIS-Libya and AQIM providing the opportunity for the Libyan Government of National Accord to continue its efforts to improve security and work towards political reconciliation. Page 26

**Ambassador Peter Bodde and General Thomas Waldhauser visit Libyan Prime Minister in
Tripoli, Libya**

Statement from Amb. Peter Bodde, Chargé d’Affaires to the Libya External Office

March 19, 2019

<https://www.africom.mil/media-room/article/31647/amb-peter-bodde-and-gen-thomas-waldhauser-visit-libyan-prime-minister-in-tripoli-libya>

We thanked Prime Minister al-Sarraj and Minister Bashaga for Libya’s strong partnership in combating ISIS and other UN-designated terrorist groups, and stressed the importance of avoiding further conflict that would enable terrorism and increase social and economic hardships.

Fred Wehrey, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

May 15, 2019

<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA13/20190515/109500/HHRG-116-FA13-Wstate-WehreyF-20190515.pdf>

“In addition, the most significant U.S.-backed counterterrorism campaign in Libya was not undertaken by Haftar but by some of the militias he is now fighting. This was the 2016 assault on the Islamic State’s stronghold in Sirte, led by GNA-aligned militias from Misrata, supported by American airpower.”

Senate Armed Services Committee Advance Policy Questions for General Stephen J. Townsend, USA Nominee for Appointment to the Position of Commander, U. S. Africa Command Page 21

April 2, 2019

https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Townsend_APQs_04-02-19.pdf

USAFRICOM supports all three tenets of the U.S. strategy. In coordination with the UN recognized Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA), U.S. forces are conducting ongoing counterterrorism operations to degrade terrorist organizations' abilities to recruit, train, and plot terror attacks.

Haftar's False Narrative that He Has Defeated ISIS

In contrast, Warlord Haftar, is attempting to claim he has defeated ISIS in Libya. This is a false narrative. For example, on May 11, 2019 Haftar admitted to 'sending Tunisian Daesh members back to their home country'. Speaking during an interview with Tunisian TV presenter and *France 24* host Tawfiq Mejaïd, Haftar's statement astonished activists, as well as his host."

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190511-libyas-haftar-admits-sending-daesh-members-back-to-tunisia/>

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190606-is-haftar-helping-daesh-return-to-libya/>

"But after 10 months of fighting, the Libya army and combined local armed groups finally managed to defeat ISIL in and around Derna and force them from the area. However, hundreds of ISIL fighters were reported to have fled via the area west of the city occupied by General Haftar's forces. ISIL then moved towards Sirte in a convoy of around 70 armed vehicles. Al Jazeera has footage of the ISIL convoy allegedly passing close to Haftar's airbase without being stopped."

"Al Jazeera obtained a leaked recording of a conversation between a member of General Haftar's media team and an officer in Haftar's 'National Libyan Army'. It's alleged that it links ISIL to Haftar's operations in Benghazi. Aljazeera also asked General Haftar to respond to allegations that he may have colluded with ISIL – but received no reply." The below articles outline the suspicious activity between Haftar and ISIS

<https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/aljazeeraworld/2017/06/libya-shifting-sands-derna-170613115119424.html>